



10/069,625.

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Patent No. 6,780,527
Request for Cert. of Correction dated January 12, 2005
Attorney Docket No. *1217-012195

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent No. : 6,780,527 *B2* Confirmation No. 1574
Inventors : Naoi et al.
Issued : August 24, 2004
Title : Decorative Article Having White Film
And Production Method Therefor
Examiner : Michael La Villa
Customer No. : 28289

Certificate
JAN 25 2005
of Correction

**REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION OF PATENT
FOR PTO MISTAKE (37 C.F.R. 1.322(a))**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

ATTENTION: Decision and Certificate of Correction Branch
Patent Issue Division

Sir:

In accordance with 35 U.S.C. §254, we attach hereto Form PTO/SB/44 and a copy of proof of PTO error(s) and request that a Certificate of Correction be issued in the above-identified patent. The following errors appear in the patent as printed:

Column 7, Line 43, "from 1 to 5 mμ" should read -- from 1 to 5 μm--
(See application, Page 18 bridging to Page 19.)

Column 50, Line 62, "at a prescribed times" should read --at prescribed times--
(See Amendment dated 09-24-2003, Page 3, first full replacement paragraph.)

Respectfully submitted,

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26 JAN 2005

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,780,527 *B2*
DATED : August 24, 2004
INVENTOR(S) : Naoi et al.

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 7, Line 43, "from 1 to 5 m μ " should read -- from 1 to 5 μ m--

Column 50, Line 62, "at a prescribed times" should read --at prescribed times--

{W0163197.1}

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER:

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PATENT NO. 6,780,527

No. of additional copies



This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.322, 1.323, and 1.324. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

26 JAN 2005



1

DESCRIPTION

~~DECORATIVE ARTICLE~~ ~~FILM~~
~~PERSONAL ORNAMENT HAVING WHITE COATING LAYER~~
~~PRODUCTION METHOD THEREFOR~~
~~AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE SAME~~

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TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a personal ornament having a white coating layer, and a process for producing the same. More particularly, the present invention relates to a low-priced personal ornament having an inexpensive white-colored stainless steel coating layer excellent in long-term corrosion resistance on the surface of a base article made of a less corrosive metal or alloy thereof; and a process for producing the personal ornament.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

~~BACKGROUND ART~~

Heretofore, many personal ornaments such as watches, necklaces, pendants, and brooches are made from a copper alloy owing to workability, material cost, and other reasons.

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However, a personal ornament made from a copper alloy, which is less corrosion-resistant, as the base material is usually covered with a plating layer formed by wet plating to protect the base material from corrosion.

25 This plating layer is usually constituted of an underlying

structure constituted of a nickel strike plating layer (flash plating), a nickel plating layer, a nickel-phosphorus alloy plating layer, and a palladium-nickel alloy plating layer (flash plating);

5 an underlying plating layer of a four-layer structure constituted of a nickel strike plating layer (flash plating), a nickel plating layer, a nickel-phosphorus alloy plating layer, and a palladium strike plating layer;

10 an underlying plating layer of a four-layer structure constituted of a copper plating layer, a copper-tin alloy plating layer, a copper-tin-palladium alloy plating layer, and a palladium plating layer (flash plating); and

15 an underlying plating layer of a four-layer structure constituted of a copper plating layer, a copper-tin alloy plating layer, a copper-tin-zinc alloy plating layer, and a palladium strike plating layer.

The entire thickness of the underlying plating
 20 layer ranges usually from 0.2 to 30 μm , preferably from 0.5 to 30 μm , more preferably from 5 to 20 μm . For example, in the underlying plating layer of ^atwo or more layer structure comprising a copper-tin alloy plating layer and a copper-tin-zinc alloy plating layer, the copper-tin
 25 alloy plating layer has a thickness usually ranging from 1

to 5 μ m, and the copper-tin-zinc alloy plating layer has a thickness ranging from 1 to 5 μ m.

The aforementioned underlying plating layer formed by a wet plating process is specifically composed of at least one metal selected from the group consisting of gold, copper, nickel, chromium, tin, palladium, nickel-phosphorus alloys, nickel alloys excluding nickel-phosphorus alloys, copper-tin-palladium alloys, copper alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys, tin alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys, and palladium alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys. The nickel-phosphorus alloy layer is preferably a hard coating layer having been treated for age hardening.

For prevention of development of nickel allergy, the underlying plating layer is preferably formed by a wet plating process and contains no nickel. Specifically, the underlying plating layer is composed preferably of at least one nickel-free metal selected from the group consisting of gold, copper, chromium, tin, palladium, copper-tin-palladium alloys, copper alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys, tin alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys, and palladium alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys.

The nickel alloys excluding nickel-phosphorus alloys include specifically nickel-cobalt alloys, nickel-



Appl. No. 10/069,625
Amdt. dated September 24, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 24, 2003
Attorney Docket No. 1217-012195

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/069,625
Applicants : Koichi Naoi et al.
Filed : February 26, 2002
Title : Personal Ornament Having White Coating Layer and Process for
Producing the Same
Group Art Unit : 1775
Examiner: : Michael E. La Villa

AMENDMENT

"A"

MS Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June 24, 2003, please amend the
above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins
on page 5 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 16 of this paper.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the
United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed
to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-
1450 on September 24, 2003.

Ruth A. Walkup

(Name of Person Mailing Paper)

Ruth A. Walkup

Signature

09/24/2003

Date



formation of the outermost coating layer (a white-colored stainless steel coating layer or a different-colored plating layer), or after the formation of the outermost coating layer. Otherwise, the age hardening treatment to the nickel-phosphorus alloy plating layer may be conducted after the formation thereof and before the formation of the outermost coating layer, by ion plating, sputtering or arcing in the same apparatus for the ion plating, sputtering, or arcing for the formation of the outermost coating.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 111, line 18 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In this state, the test piece mount 4 is moved reciprocatingly by a mechanism of converting the rotation of a motor not shown in the drawing to reciprocation movement. The abrasion wheel 5 is rotated intermittently in the arrow direction by 0.9 degree per each one reciprocation movement of the test piece mount 4. By this rotation of the abrasion wheel, the abrasion paper sheet on the abrasion wheel 5 is pressed at the unabraded fresh portion against the test piece 1. The times of the reciprocation of the test piece mount 4 can be automatically preset to stop the abrasion test at a prescribed times of the reciprocation.--

Please replace the Abstract on page 126 with the following rewritten Abstract:

~~A personal ornament having a white coating layer comprises a base article made of a metal, and a white colored stainless steel coating layer formed by a dry plating process on at least a part of the surface of the base article. Another personal ornament having a white coating layer comprises a base article made of a nonferrous metal, an underlying plating layer formed on the surface of the base article, and a white colored stainless steel coating layer formed by a dry plating process on at least a part of the surface of the underlying plating layer.~~